

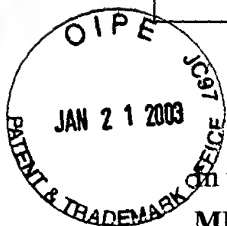
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Teresa A. Went

Name

Signature

#7/BM/131
3-31-03



P&G Case 8674

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

MICHAEL GOMER STELLJES, JR., et al. : Confirmation No.: 9182

Serial No.: 09/929,599 : Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: August 14, 2001 : Examiner: M. Halpern

For: **METHOD OF DRYING FIBROUS STRUCTURES**

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION OF OCTOBER 15, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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In response to the Office Action of October 15, 2002, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

35 USC §102(b) rejection:

Claims 1-2, 6, 14-18, and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ensign (US 5,584,126, hereinafter the '126 patent). A rejection under 35 USC §102(b) requires that the reference teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not taught must be inherently present (MPEP 706.02(a)).

Applicants respectfully submit that the '126 patent does not explicitly or impliedly teach that the web is pressed between a fluid permeable carrier and a limiting orifice medium. The web and support member are described as wrapping the pervious cylinder from the inlet roll to the outlet roll. Nothing in the specification of the patent teaches or suggests that pressure is applied to the web between the support member and the pervious